

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Republican colleagues were in a rush to get to a big bucks fundraiser up in Manhattan, and democracy was trampled in their stampede to get to those big dollars. You can look at today's New York Post. You can see what it was all about. An all-star list of corporate bigwigs was slated to attend, the same corporate bigwigs that are being benefited by the tax shift to the superrich at the expense of people who want school lunches and the protection of Medicare. It is more of the same thing.

But it is a dark day indeed for democracy in this country when the rights not just of two Members, but over 1 million Americans to have their voice heard in this House, are trampled and cut off. And, amazingly, only moments before this occurred, in the Committee on Science on which I serve, in an incredible display of arrogance, there was an attempt to force people to vote there or vote here.

This is a true setback for democracy.

#### ADJOURNING EARLY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, in my 13 years as a Member of Congress, I have never experienced what happened yesterday in this House. Instead of doing the people's business, this House adjourned yesterday at 3:50 in the afternoon, in the middle of a workday afternoon when most Americans are still on the job. Why? Money, and millions of dollars of it. That is right. Congress adjourned early yesterday so that Republican Members with Speaker GINGRICH at the helm could fly to New York to attend a GOP fundraiser aboard the Intrepid Sea and Air Space Museum, where wealthy givers paid \$1.7 million to hobnob with Republican Members who did not work a full day yesterday, but were not docked for their pay.

During the first 2 months of this year, the Republican Campaign Committee has raised over \$11 million. That is over \$123,000 a day. Maybe it is time to ask ourselves who is fighting for America here in Washington, and should not those Members who left early be docked on their pay?

#### GOP ABUSE OF POWER

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it seems only yesterday when the Republicans rode into town promising reform, but those days are long gone. Instead of reform, the new Republican majority has carried favor with the special interests, gagged debate, and yesterday denied Members of this body the right to vote.

Why did Republicans close a vote while two Democratic Members were

waiting to cast their ballots? Because they had a fundraiser to go to. Yes, the buses were idling outside waiting to squire them to the "Salute to Newt" fundraiser, featuring GOP poster boy Rupert Murdoch. The article in the Post today says "the GOP went to great lengths." Indeed, they went to great lengths to make sure that their Members got to the Big Apple on time.

Last November, the American people were promised that Government would be returned to them. But yesterday hundreds of thousands of American people were shut out of the people's House when their Representatives were denied the right to vote on their behalf. What we are seeing in this body is an arrogance of power, one of the most egregious abuses of power in our Nation's history.

#### THE FACTS BE DAMNED

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. My goodness, such self-righteous indignation over those big-money interests. It is a concept that the other side of the aisle has known nothing about for 40 years. But who for the past 40 years has been the champion of PAC money and collecting special interest money? It has not been this side of the aisle. It has been the Democrats. And yet now that the Republicans dare to have a fundraiser, a concept that the Democratic Party has never thought of one time in their life, we are destroying the work of the people's House. We are subverting democracy.

Dear Lord, there were two Democrats that were going to vote yesterday, but they were shut out. Be damned with the facts. Get behind us, facts. There was a Republican in the Chamber also, and the majority leader explained this yesterday. The Democrats would have lost.

But instead of sticking to the facts, they are relying on demagoguery, talking about Rupert Murdoch and other things that have absolutely nothing to do with the facts of what happened yesterday.

How absolutely irrelevant to what has been going on yesterday and what has been going on since we got here on January 4, 1995.

#### MEMBERS' RIGHTS MUST BE PRESERVED

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, in response to the previous statement by the gentleman who just spoke, let me say the issue is not whether the Republican Party held a fundraiser or not. That happens all the time on both sides of the aisle.

The issue, however, is whether it is in the democratic tradition, big American democratic tradition, not party, for the majority party to shut down this House and cut off an individual Member's right to vote so that they can get to a fundraiser in New York on time. The article in Mr. Murdoch's paper says the GOP "went to great lengths to make sure its Members got to the Big Apple on time."

This is the issue. Not whether you had a fundraiser, but whether you were so anxious to go grab the money, that you were willing to shortcircuit the democratic process in the doing. That is the issue.

#### CRYING LACK OF FAIR PLAY

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, in response to all this money-raising garbage, frankly, that I have been hearing this morning, how interesting it is that the President of your party tonight kicks off his fundraising. Do you want to dock his pay? One of your people just proposed you dock the pay for the time they spent. Take a look at that.

Second of all, to my colleague that was just preceding me, who talked about the cutoff of voting rights, why do you not bring the videotape up here and set up the TV camera? To my colleague, the videotape does not lie. They were in violation of the rule. They were not down here in the well. They had gone beyond the 17 minutes.

Do not cry lack of fair play. Bring up the video and show the American people the truth. Are you afraid to do that? Of course you are.

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#### A BAD DAY FOR THE CONSTITUTION

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, this morning I think that we should recall the words of a great woman of many, many years ago, Barbara Jordan, during the Watergate hearings, when she intoned the Constitution.

Yesterday was a bad day for the Constitution. Yesterday was a bad day for this card that we each have that the people of our respective congressional districts graced us with, the power to speak for them, the power to represent them with our vote. The Constitution. The Constitution.

Yesterday was a good day for fundraising. Yesterday was a bad day for democracy and for the Constitution and the power that the people gave us in the House of Representatives to cast our vote and to speak for them. Shame on those that would chip away at the Constitution.